

NEW ENGLAND NOTE

A NEW MASSACHUSETTS RECORD FOR *ORNITHOPUS SATIVUS* (FABACEAE)

LISA A. STANDLEY

VHB, Inc., 101 Walnut Street, Watertown, MA 02471
e-mail: lstandley@vhb.com

Ornithopus sativus Brot. Massachusetts: Nantucket Co., Nantucket, 41°17.52'N, 69°59.70'W, in sandy disturbed area ca. 200 ft. W of Polpis Rd. 0.65 mi. S of intersection with Quidnet Rd., small population with *Panicum* spp., *Desmodium ciliare*, and *Rubus* spp. on sandy slope N and W of constructed wetland, 29 Aug 2000, Standley s.n. (NEBC).

A small population of the introduced European legume *Ornithopus sativus* subsp. *sativus* was found in a disturbed sandy area on Nantucket. The taxon is reported to occur in Suffolk Co., New York (Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Magee and Ahles 1999; Mitchell 1986), but has not previously been recorded in Massachusetts (Sorrie and Dunwiddie 1996; Sorrie and Somers 1999), Rhode Island (Gould et al. 1998), Maine (Campbell et al. 1995), or the southeastern United States (Isley 1990). No specimens were found in the University of Massachusetts (Amherst) or New England Botanical Club herbaria (K. Searcy and R. Angelo, pers. comm.).

The plants were growing in an area recently disturbed for construction of a compensatory wetland, and were discovered during annual monitoring of the mitigation area. It is likely that the species occurs elsewhere on the island, as sand used in the construction of the site was obtained from other locations on Nantucket, but was not imported from any off-island source. *Ornithopus sativus* is an annual native to dry sandy areas, and is cultivated as a fodder crop (Ball 1968). It is likely to persist on Nantucket since suitable habitats are abundant, but is unlikely to become a problem invasive due to its annual habit and small size.

LITERATURE CITED

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